

Daily Bag and Possession Limits

Closed Season: For all swans, harlequin ducks, king rails and mourning doves.

Ducks: 6 ducks in aggregate and may not include more than:

4 mallards (including no more than 2 hens)

4 scoters 2 redheads 2 scaup 6 goldeneye 6 long-tailed duck 6 ruddy duck
 2 canvasback 2 pintails 6 wigeon 6 shoveler 6 blue-winged teal 6 eiders
 1 black duck 3 wood duck 6 gadwall 6 bufflehead 6 green-winged teal 6 ring-necked duck

Mergansers (Common, red breasted and hooded): 5; of which only 2 may be a hooded mergansers.

Merganser limits are in addition to duck limits.

Brant: 1

Canada geese (September Season): 15

Canada geese (Regular Season): North and South Zones: 3; Coastal Zone: 5

Canada goose bag limits are singly or in aggregate including Cackling and White-fronted geese

Canada geese (Special Winter Season): 5 singly or in aggregate including Cackling & White-fronted geese

Light geese (Includes Greater and Lesser snow geese and Ross's geese)

Regular Season: 25; singly or in aggregate

Conservation Order: None

Sea Ducks (Black, surf and white-winged scoter, long-tailed duck and eiders only)

Special Sea Duck Area: 7 sea ducks but no more than 4 scoters in aggregate

Outside Sea Duck Area: Sea ducks count toward the regular bag of 6 ducks

Youth Days: Same bag limits for ducks, Canada geese, brant, and light geese within each zone.

Woodcock: 3 **Coot:** 15 **Moorhen** (gallinule): 10 **Snipe:** 8 **Crows:** None

Sora and Virginia rail: 25 singly or in aggregate **Clapper rail:** 10

Possession Limits: Possession limits are three times the daily limit for all species during each of the corresponding seasons. Exceptions: light geese and crows have no possession limit.

Notes and Exceptions

Special September Canada Goose Season Regulations in effect September 1-30, 2015 only.

1. Electronic calls are permitted
2. Shotguns capable of holding no more than 7 shells (including magazine and chamber) are permitted.
3. Hunting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

Open only for holders of valid youth hunting licenses 15 years old or younger and accompanied by a non-shooting individual at least 21 years of age with a hunting license.

2016 SPRING LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER - Feb. 16 - Apr. 9, 2016.

1. Electronic calls are permitted.
2. Shotguns capable of holding no more than 7 shells (including magazine and chamber) are permitted.
3. Shooting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.
4. A valid hunting license, federal and state duck stamps, HIP certification and NJ Light Goose Conservation Order (CO) Permit (\$2.00) are required.
5. The NJ Light Goose CO Permit is available ONLY from the Division's web site or by mailing: Light Goose Permit, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Code 501-03, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420. A request for mailed permits must include: 1) Photocopy of 2016 Hunting or All-Around Sportsmen license which clearly shows the Conservation ID Number and DOB, 2) Check or money order for \$2.00 payable to NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, 3) Self-addressed, stamped envelope, 4) Daytime telephone number. The light goose permit will not be available until January 2016. As part of the permit process, hunters will be required to report their activity and harvest as requested on the permit. Check the Division's web site in late winter for more details.

Falconry (Hawking) - Special Season dates and bag limits. Contact NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife at 908-735-8793

REPORT BANDED BIRDS
www.reportband.gov OR (800) 327-BAND

PRIMARY WATERFOWL SEASONS

NORTH ZONE

Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots	Oct. 10 - Oct. 22	Nov. 14 - Jan. 9
Brant	Nov. 14 - Nov. 28	Dec. 22 - Jan. 9
Canada geese (Regular Season)	Nov. 14- Nov. 28	Dec. 12 - Jan. 23
Youth Waterfowl Days	Oct. 3 and Oct. 31	

SOUTH ZONE

Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots	Oct. 17 - Oct. 24	Nov. 14 - Jan. 14
Brant	Oct. 17 - Oct. 24	Nov. 14 - Dec. 10
Canada geese (Regular Season)	Nov. 14- Nov. 28	Dec. 12 - Jan. 23
Youth Waterfowl Days	Oct. 10 and Nov. 7	

COASTAL ZONE

Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots	Oct. 31 - Nov. 3	Nov. 26- Jan. 30
Brant	Nov. 26 - Dec. 5	Dec. 19 - Jan. 12
Canada geese (Regular Season)	Oct. 31 - Nov. 3	Nov. 26 - Feb. 15
Youth Waterfowl Days	Nov. 7 and Feb. 13	

STATEWIDE SEASONS

Canada geese September Season	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30
Light geese Regular Season	Oct. 17 - Feb. 15
Conservation Order	Feb. 16 - Apr. 9
Sora rail, Clapper rail, Virginia rail, Moorhen (Common gallinule)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 7
Common snipe	Sept. 18 - Jan. 2
Crows	Aug. 10 - Dec. 5 Dec. 14 - Mar. 19 Mon., Thur., Fri., Sat. Only

OTHER SEASONS

Woodcock	
North Zone	Oct. 17 - Nov. 21
South Zone	Nov. 7 - Nov. 28 Dec. 19 - Jan. 1
Sea ducks: Special Sea Duck Area Only (scoters, long-tailed ducks, and eiders)	Sept. 29 - Jan. 30
Canada geese: Special Winter Season Zones	Jan. 25 - Feb. 15

REPORT HUNTING VIOLATIONS

24 HR DEP HOTLINE 877-WARNDEP (927-6337)
 OPERATION GAME THIEF 855-OGT-TIPS

NEW JERSEY

2015-2016 MIGRATORY BIRD REGULATIONS



MAJOR CHANGES FOR THE 2015-2016 SEASON

- The brant bag limit was reduced to 1 bird and the brant season will be closed during part of the duck season in all zones.
- The Regular Canada goose season in the Coastal Zone has been extended and the bag limit increased to 5 birds.
- The canvasback bag limit was increased to 2 birds.
- New Jersey has a regulation prohibiting wanton waste of most game species, including migratory birds. See restriction d. on page 3.

WHAT DO I NEED TO HUNT MIGRATORY BIRDS IN NEW JERSEY?

Species Hunted	Hunting License	HIP Certification	NJ Stamp Certification	Federal Stamp
Crows	X			
Woodcock, rails, moorhens, snipe	X	X		
Ducks, brant, geese	X	X	X	X

WATERFOWL STAMP – A NJ Waterfowl Stamp Certification and Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) are required for all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older and must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp. New Jersey Stamp Certifications are available from license agents and from the “Licenses and Permits” page on the Division’s web site. Federal stamps are available from some US Post Offices and online at www.fws.gov/duckstamps/stamps.htm

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP)

All hunters must obtain a HIP certification **before** hunting ducks, geese, brant, coot, woodcock, rails, snipe, or gallinules. Migratory bird hunters can get their HIP certification one of three ways:

1. **Online at <http://njfishandwildlife.com/licenses.htm>**
2. **From a license agent.**
3. **By calling the toll-free NJ telephone sales line at 888-277-2015.**

All 3 methods allow hunters to go hunting immediately after registering. Online and license agent HIP certifications will cost \$2.00 while telephone HIP certifications will include a shipping/handling fee and cost \$5.13. Internet HIP certifications can be printed on a home computer. Telephone HIP certifications will be received in about 1 week; however, hunters can begin hunting immediately by recording their HIP certification number. HIP certification should be carried in the hunter’s license holder. HIP certifications are valid from Sept. 1 to April 30 each year. Information collected for HIP is confidential and used by the USFWS for conducting migratory bird harvest surveys.



www.njfishandwildlife.com



SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

The following is a synopsis of Federal Regulations that pertain to the hunting of migratory game birds. More information can be found at:

http://njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/waterfowl_federal_regs.pdf or by calling the US Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Office at 908-787-1321.

No persons shall take migratory game birds:

- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. **Baiting** means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. **Baited area** means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.
- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machinegun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;
- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells. **Exceptions: In New Jersey, shotguns capable of holding no more than 7 shells are permitted during the September Canada goose season and the Light Goose Conservation Order.**
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance;
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased. Exception: crippled birds may be shot from craft under power in the Special Sea Duck Area.
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds. **Exceptions: In New Jersey, hunters can use electronic calls during: crow season, September Canada goose season and the Light Goose Conservation Order.**
- By means or aid of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird;

Tagging requirement No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating his address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

Species identification requirement No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

HUNTING HOURS - See page 83 of Fish and Wildlife Digest for sunrise/sunset table.

- Ducks, geese, brant, coots, rails, moorhens, snipe—**1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.** For example, if sunrise is 6:30 AM and sunset is 5:00 PM, hunting hours for these species are 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- Woodcock—**sunrise to sunset.**
- Crows—**sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.**
- September Canada goose and the Spring Light goose Conservation Order — 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

STATE REGULATIONS

State laws and regulations may be more stringent but not more lenient than those prescribed in the federal code (CFR Title 50).

NONTOXIC SHOT REGULATIONS—In New Jersey, no person may take ducks, geese, brant, coots, rails, snipe, or moorhens while possessing shot other than approved nontoxic shot. Approved nontoxic shot includes steel, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-nickel-iron, tungsten-iron-nickel-tin, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-polymer, bismuth-tin, copper-clad iron, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-tin-iron, and tungsten-tin-bismuth shot types. Shot size may not exceed Size T (0.200 inch) for waterfowl. See <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/currentbirdissues/nontoxic.htm> for more information. For crows and woodcock, shot size may not exceed Size #4 and lead shot is permitted.

Restrictions:

- MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING IS NOT PERMITTED ON SUNDAYS IN NJ.**
- The starting time to hunt waterfowl on the opening day of the pheasant season (Nov. 7, 2015) is 8 a.m. on Wildlife Management Areas stocked with pheasant and quail except the tidal waters or marshes of those WMA's. The starting time to hunt waterfowl on the opening day of the pheasant season will conform to the regular start time (eg: 1/2 hr. before sunrise) on private land, tidal marshes, WMA's not stocked with pheasant and quail, and the tidal marsh portions of pheasant and quail stocked WMA's .
- There shall be **no open season** for hunting any game birds or animals including migratory waterfowl:
 - In or on the shores of the Shark River in Monmouth County.
 - In that portion of the Manasquan River from the ocean inlet upstream to Route 70 bridge.
 - On Herring Island and that portion of Barnegat Bay lying between northern and southern tips of Herring Island easterly to adjacent shoreline of Mantoloking Boro, Ocean County.
 - On Parker Creek and Oceanport Creek, Monmouth County, or the shores thereof, southwest or upstream of the Conrail R.R. bridge.
 - On the **non-tidal portions** of Cox Hall Creek WMA.
- It is unlawful for any person to leave the edible portions (defined as the breast meat) of migratory birds (excepting crows) to waste. Edible portions do not include meat that has been damaged by the method of taking; bones, sinew, and meat reasonably lost as a result of butchering, boning, or close trimming of bones; or viscera. Edible portions do not include meat from diseased carcasses. Further, it is unlawful for a person to dump or abandon a wildlife carcass or parts along or upon a public right-of-way or highway, or on public or private property, including a waterway or stream, without the permission of the owner or tenant.
- Waterfowl hunting on Delaware River is governed by State boundaries and restricted to respective state seasons.
- Permanent blinds may not be constructed on some State Wildlife Management Areas. See page 70 of the 2015 NJ Fish and Wildlife Hunting Digest.
- Arrows with flu-flu type fletching are required for taking flying game birds.
- Arrows with edged heads are prohibited for taking flying game birds.

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING ZONES

Waterfowl Zones:

Applies to regular ducks, coots, mergansers, regular season Canada geese, brant, regular season light geese and Youth Waterfowl Days.

Coastal Zone: That portion of the State seaward of a line beginning at the New York State line in Raritan Bay and extending west along the New York State line to NJ 440 at Perth Amboy; west on NJ 440 to the Garden State Parkway; south on the Garden State Parkway to the shoreline at Cape May and continuing to the Delaware State line in Delaware Bay.

North Zone: That portion of the State west of the Coastal Zone and north of a line extending west from the Garden State Parkway on NJ 70 to the New Jersey Turnpike, north on the turnpike to U.S. 206, north on U.S. 206 to U.S. 1 at Trenton, west on U.S. 1 to the Pennsylvania State line in the Delaware River.

South Zone: Portion of the State not within the North Zone or the Coastal Zone.



Woodcock North Zone—North of Route 70 from Point Pleasant to Camden.

Woodcock South Zone—South of Route 70 from Point Pleasant to Camden.

Special Sea Duck Area: Defined as any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in addition any tidal waters of any bay which are separated by at least 1 mile of open water from any shore, island or emergent vegetation. In this area, hunters must limit their hunting to open water areas at least one mile from any land or emergent vegetation in any direction.

SPECIAL WINTER CANADA GOOSE SEASON HUNTING AREAS

The two hatched areas are open to hunting.

For the north, it is that portion of New Jersey within a continuous line that runs east along the New York boundary line to the Hudson River; then south along the New York State boundary to its intersection with Route 440 at Perth Amboy; then west on Route 440 to its intersection with Route 287; then west along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 206 in Bedminster (Exit 18); then north along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 94; then west along Route 94 to the toll bridge in Columbia; then north along the Pennsylvania State boundary in the Delaware River to the beginning point.

For the south, it is that portion of New Jersey within a continuous line that runs west from the Atlantic Ocean at Ship Bottom along Route 72 to Route 70; then west along Route 70 to Route 206; then south along Route 206 to Route 536; then west along Route 536 to Route 322; then west along Route 322 to Route 55; then south along Route 55 to Route 553 (Buck Rd.); then south along Route 553 to Route 40; then east along Route 40 to Route 55; then south along Route 55 to Route 552 (Sherman Ave.); then west along Route 552 to Carmel Rd.; then south along Carmel Rd. to Route 49; then east along Route 49 to Route 555; then south along Route 555 to Route 553; then east along Route 553 to Route 649; then north along Route 649 to Route 670; then east along Route 670 to Route 47; then north along Route 47 to Route 548; then east along Route 548 to Route 49; then east along Route 49 to Route 50; then south along Route 50 to Route 9; then south along Route 9 to Route 625 (Sea Isle City Blvd.); then east along Route 625 to the Atlantic Ocean; then north to the beginning point.

